



Vessel Traffic Forecasting in Canada's Pacific Region

June 2025

clearseas.org

Welcome & Introductions

Speakers



Michael Cowdell
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Moderator



Paul Blomerus
Executive Director, Clear Seas

Context: Development on the Pacific Coast

Politics

Ottawa planning 'up-front' approval for projects deemed in the national interest

Internal federal documents suggest legislation could be tabled as early as next month



David Thurton, Darren Major • CBC News • Posted: May 29, 2025 1:54 PM PDT | Last Updated: May 29

POLITICS

BC NDP's contentious fast-track legislation passes in tight vote



By Simon Little & Richard Zussman • Global News

Posted May 28, 2025 5:40 pm • Updated May 28, 2025 8:24 pm • 4 min read

First LNG carrier arrives in Kitimat, B.C., as \$40B liquefied natural gas plant prepares to start

By Andrew Kurjata



CBC • Apr 3

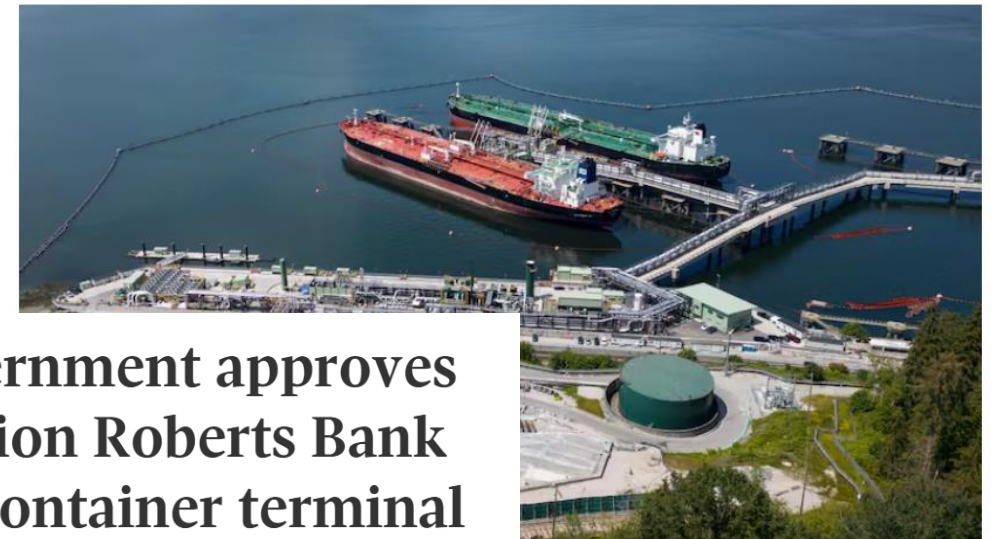


Business

China emerging as top customer for Canadian oil shipped via Trans Mountain Pipeline

Shift occurring amid a trade war and U.S. sanctions on crude from Russia, Venezuela

Thomson Reuters • Posted: May 16, 2025 1:37 PM PDT | Last Updated: May 16



Federal government approves B.C. \$3.5-billion Roberts Bank West Coast container terminal

VESSEL TRAFFIC FORECAST TO 2040 FOR CANADA'S PACIFIC REGION

March 2025



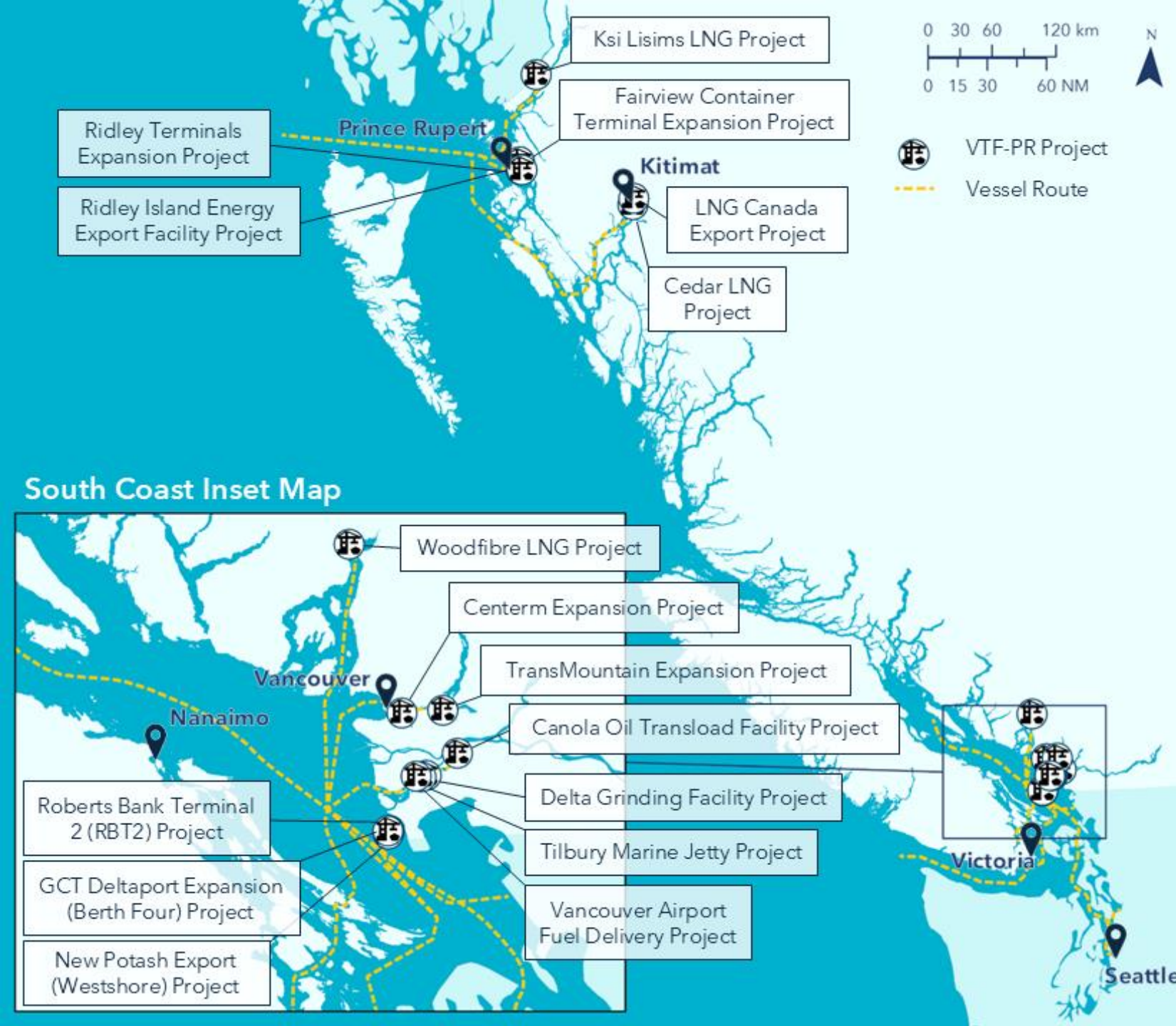
What we found:

- International vessel traffic could increase 60% by 2040
 - Current average: 3,186 vessels per year
 - 2040 forecast: 5,299 vessels per year
- Tanker traffic will increase significantly (as much as 611%), mainly due to LNG tankers
- Major growth on the North Coast of British Columbia (217%)
- Escort tug traffic will increase as more vessels will require assistance to safely navigate through coastal waters

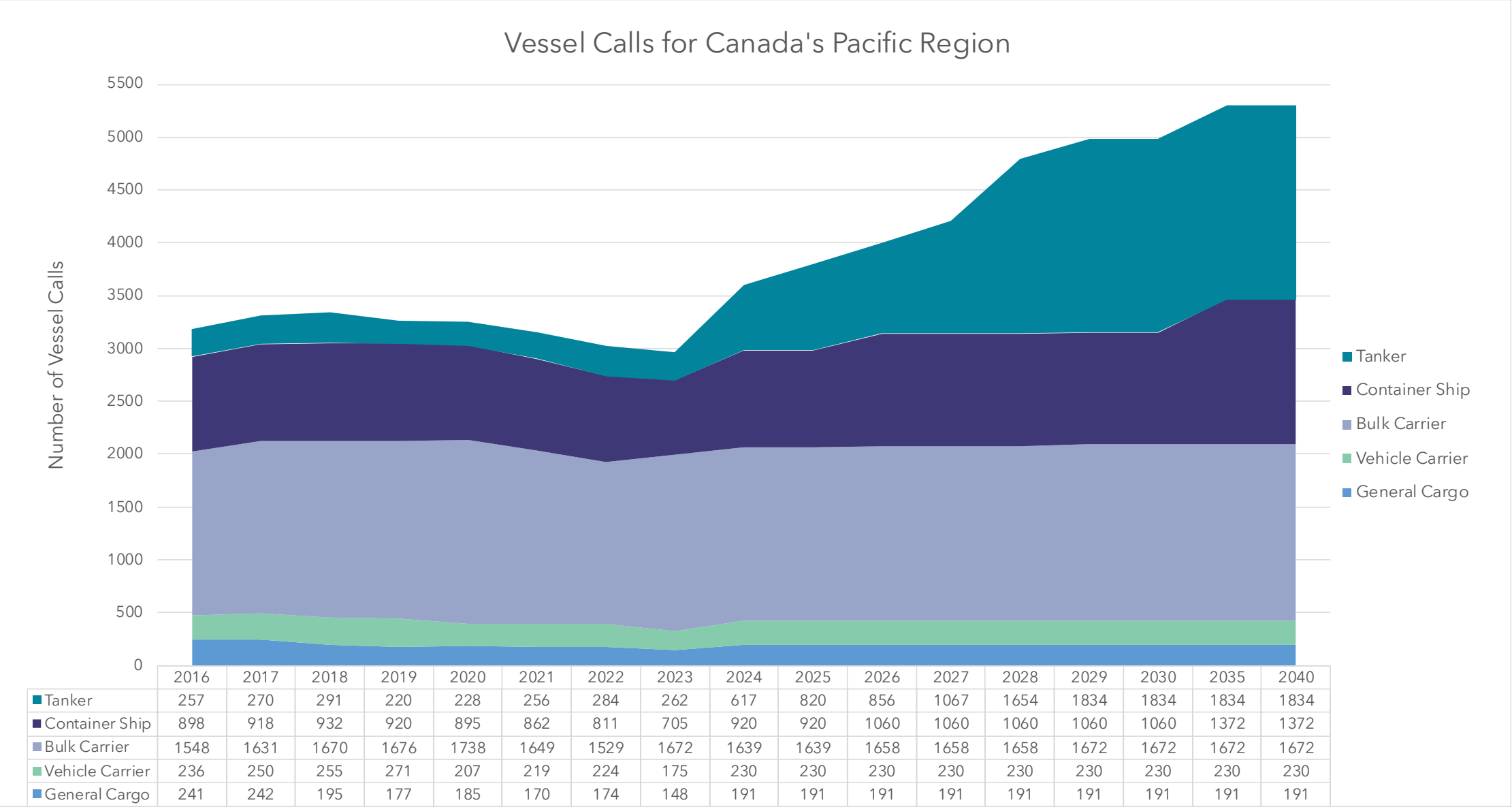


Types of vessel traffic included in the study:

- Commercial vessels > 300 GTs
 - Bulk carriers
 - Container ships
 - LNG/LPG carriers
 - Oil tankers
- Tugs greater than 15 m in length
- Cruise ships excluded

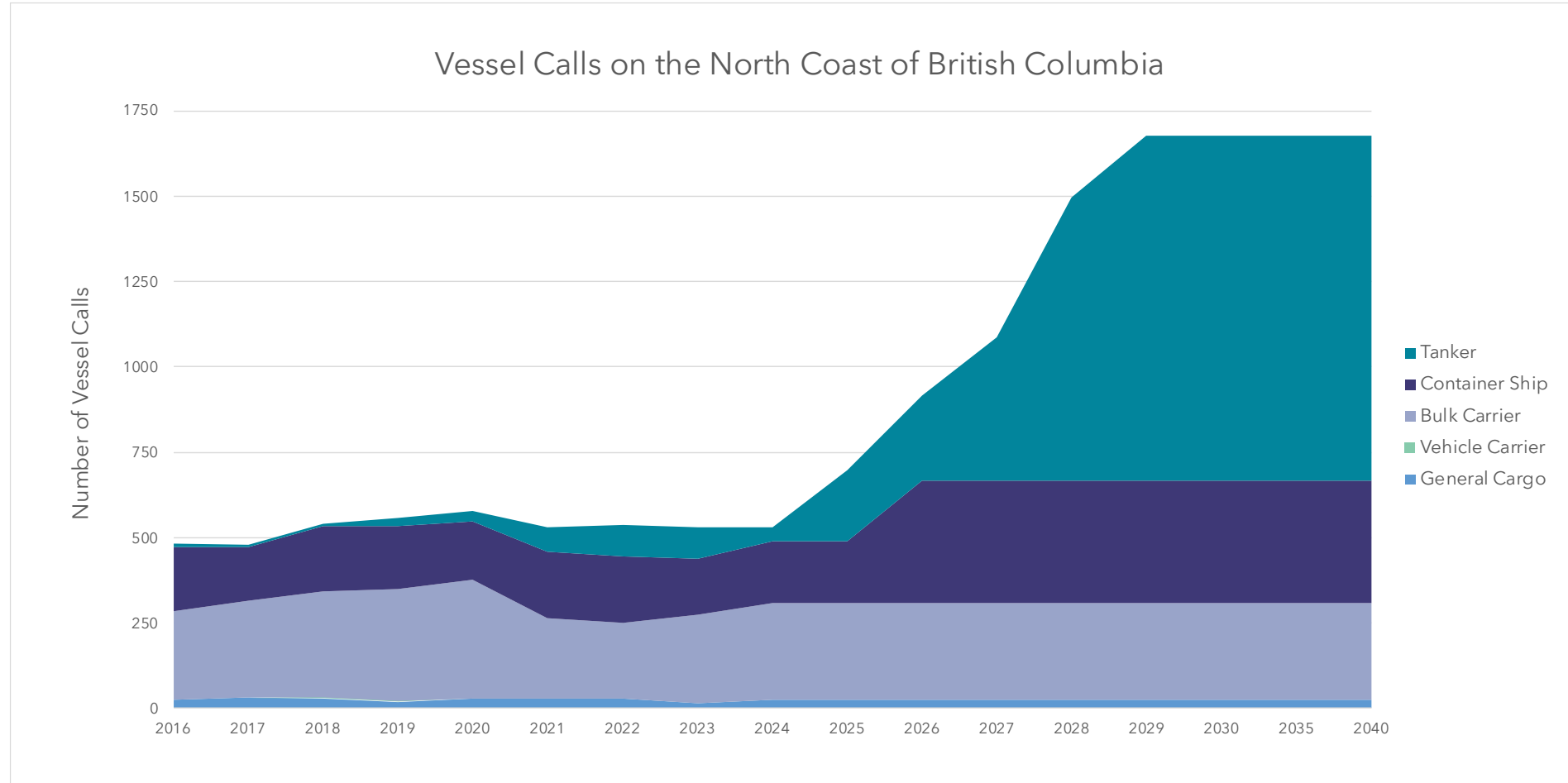


Projects included
in the VTF-PR



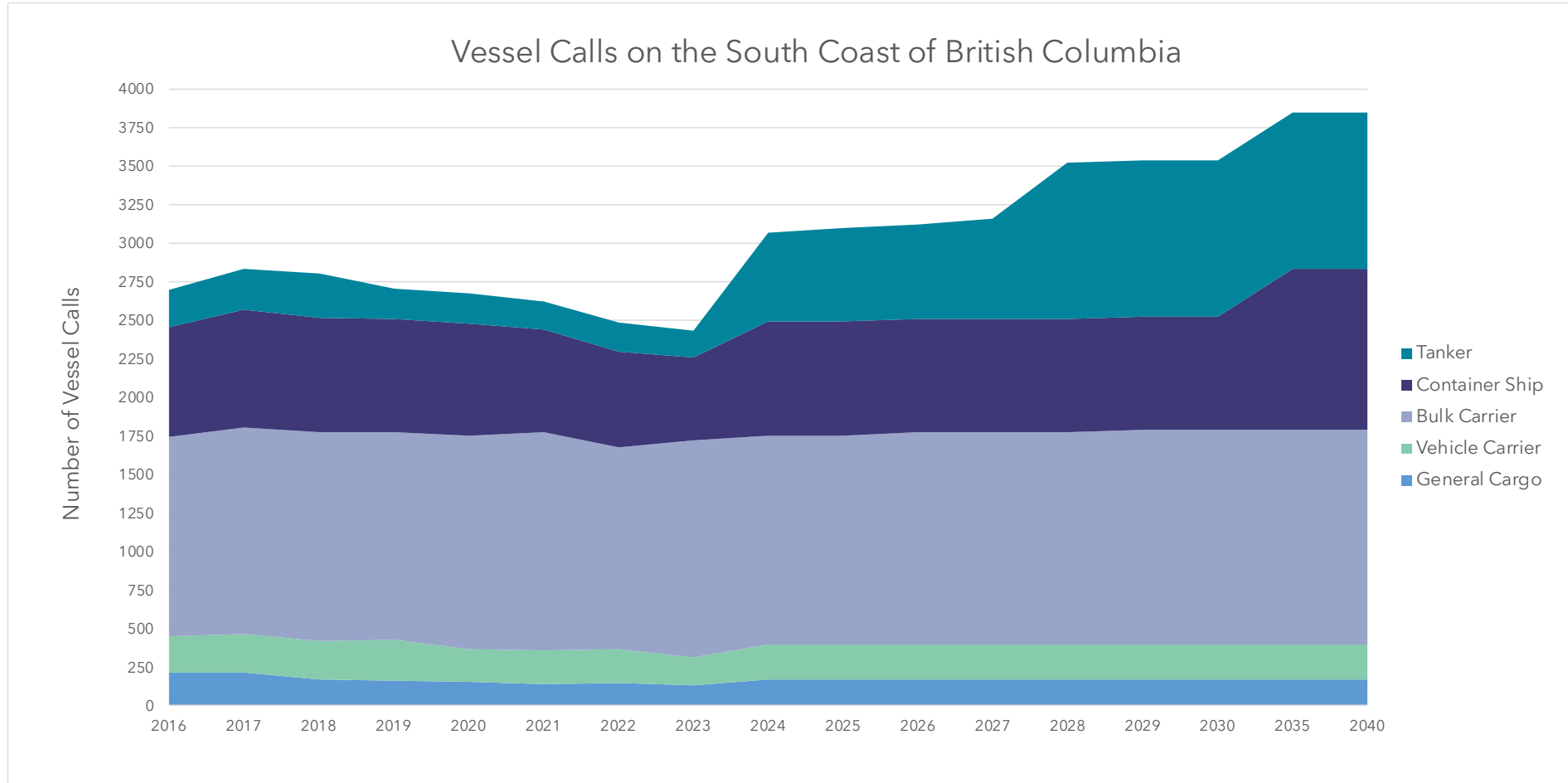
Maximum number of vessels for each project added to the average traffic from 2016 – 2023.

North Coast in Focus



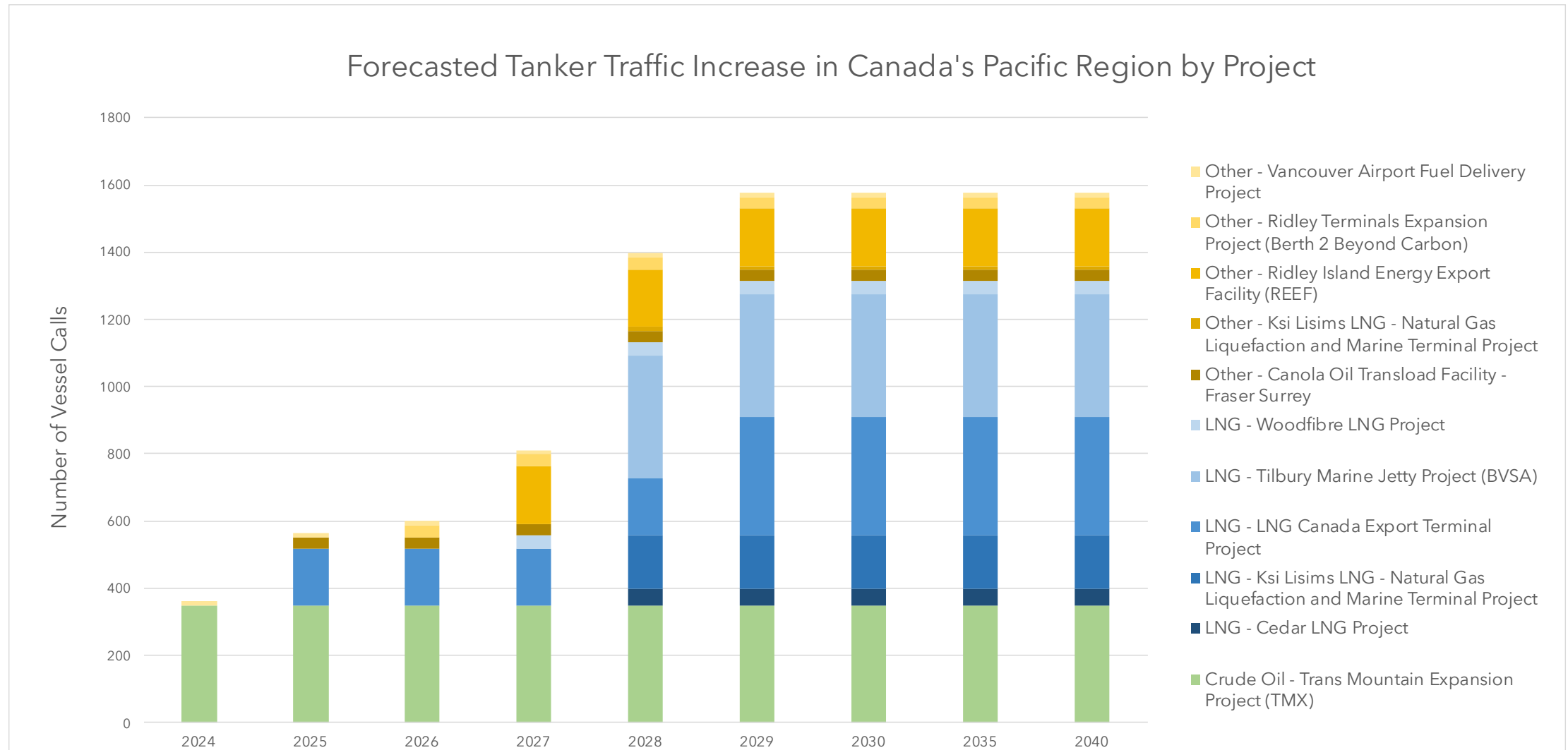
Forecast for vessel traffic on the North Coast of British Columbia 2024 – 2040 based on the maximum number of vessels for each project added to the average traffic from 2016 – 2023.

South Coast



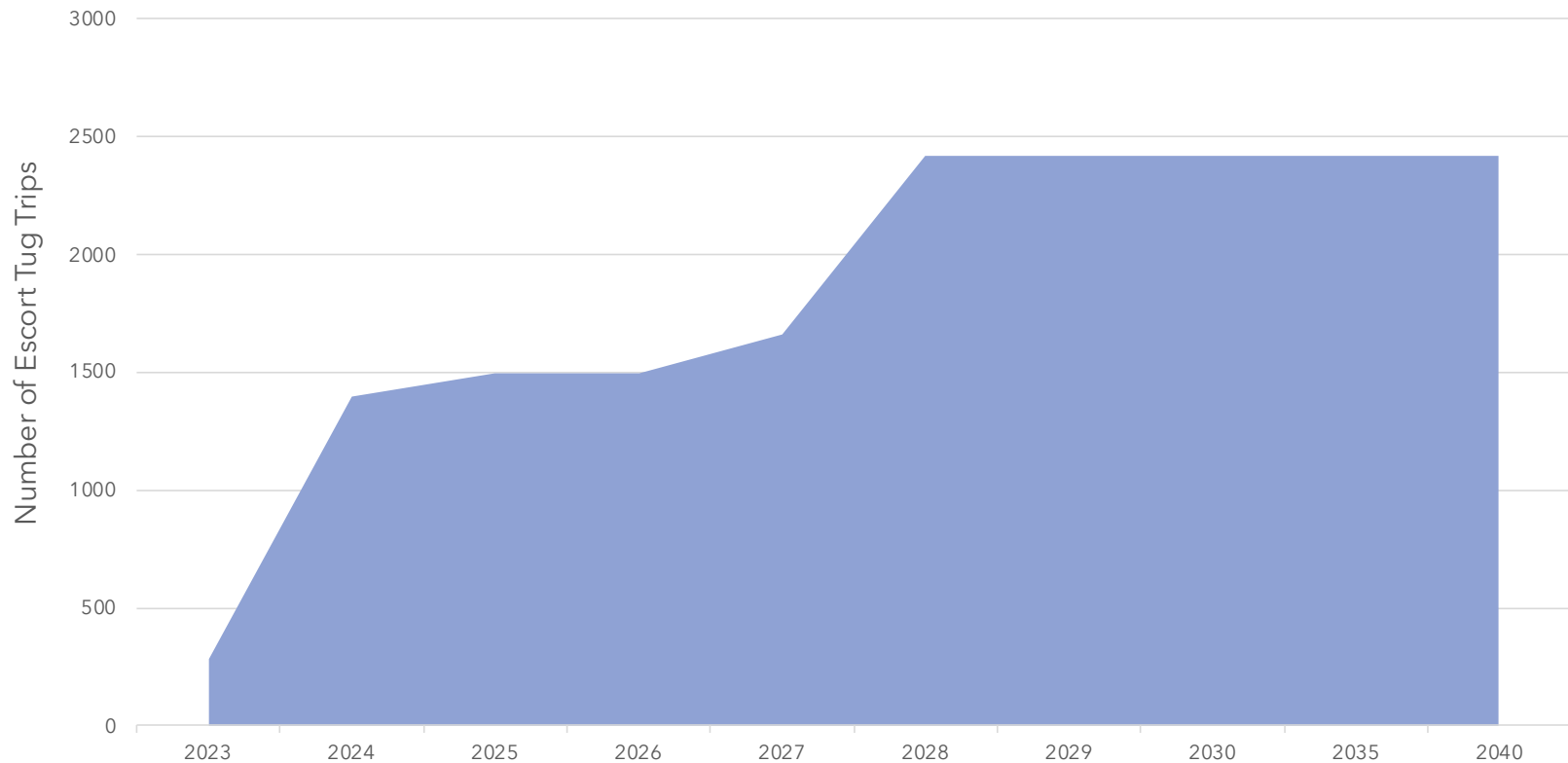
Forecast for vessel traffic on the South Coast of British Columbia 2024 – 2040 based on the maximum number of vessels for each project added to the average traffic from 2016 – 2023.

Understanding Forecasted Growth in Tanker Traffic



Increase in Escort Tug Traffic

Forecasted Escort Tug Traffic Increase in the Salish Sea



Forecasted increase in escort tug traffic in the Salish Sea 2023 – 2040.



<https://www.seaspan.com/stories/a-decade-in-the-making-haisea-guides-first-lng-carrier-into-kitimat/>

Current Status of Project

VTF-PR Project Name	Under Review	Final Investment Decision	Construction	VTF-PR Forecast Start Date (min)
Centerm Expansion Project				2023
Vancouver Airport Fuel Delivery Project				2023
Trans Mountain Expansion Project				2024
Canola Oil Transload Facility - Fraser Surrey				2025
LNG Canada Export Terminal Project (Phase 1)				2025
Fairview Container Terminal Stage 1B (North) Expansion Project				2026
New Potash Export - Westshore				2026
Ridley Terminals Expansion Project (Berth 2 Beyond Carbon)				2026
Ridley Island Energy Export Facility (REEF)				2027
Woodfibre LNG Project				2027
Cedar LNG Project				2028
Ksi Lisims LNG - Natural Gas Liquefaction and Marine Terminal Project				2028
Tilbury Marine Jetty Project				2028
Delta Grinding Facility Project				2029
LNG Canada Export Terminal Project (Phase 2)				2029
Delta Grinding Facility Project (Phase 2)				2034
GCT Deltaport Expansion - Berth Four Project				2034
Roberts Bank Terminal 2 Project				2035



QUESTIONS & DISCUSSION

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